

**LEBANON BOARD OF EDUCATION
LEBANON MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 11, 2021 - 7:30 P.M.**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Sarah Haynes, Chair Maureen McCall, Secretary Nicole McGillicuddy Matthew Smith Mark DeCaprio	Alexis Margerelli-Hussey, Vice-Chair John Konow Danelle Person Dawn Witcher
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ALSO PRESENT: Interim Superintendent Patricia A. Ciccone, Holly Hollander, Director of Curriculum, Jay Apicelli, Principal, Jacques Dulac, IT Director, Robert Laskarzewski, Principal, Rita Quiles-Glover, Principal, Cheryl Biekert, Director of Pupil Services, Kevin French, Supervisor of Facilities and Custodial Services and Kathleen Smith, Selectman

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman S. Haynes called the meeting to order at 7:34 and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. COMMUNICATION

Resignation Letters - Superintendent Ciccone read notes of resignation from Yvette Boutin effective May 7, 2021, Kathryn Filer effective June 18, 2021 and Cheryl Derosier, effective May 19, 2021.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – BYLAWS OF THE BOARD #9324

None

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of minutes.

1. Strategic Plan/Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting – 4/13/2021
2. Finance/Facilities Subcommittee Meeting – 4/13/2021
3. LBOE Regular Meeting – 4/13/2021
4. Policy Subcommittee Meeting – 4/26/2021
5. Finance/Facilities Subcommittee Meeting – 5/4/2021
6. Budget Transfers

Motion by A. Margerelli-Hussey and seconded by D. Person to add item XII to the agenda to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing the superintendent contract. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by J. Konow and seconded by M. DeCaprio to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

V. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT

No report

VI. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- EASTCONN – Nothing to report.
- Finance/Facilities – N. McGillicuddy reported that they met last Tuesday and saw a wonderful presentation by Scott Elliott outlining the transformation of the baseball field at LES to the gorgeous field it is today. This was a joint effort between Scott, the DPW, maintenance staff at LPS and the Rec Department. She is thankful for now having a clear picture of the responsibilities for that field. They are waiting Eversource approvals for the LED project. On the LES Ventilation project, they are waiting on the mechanical engineer who will be available mid-May to give estimates. Kropp Environmental will be giving a recommendation on the LES window replacement. The 2021/2022 town budget went to referendum today with the schools receiving a cut of about \$294,000 from their proposed budget.
- Enrollment/Communications/Goals – Nothing to report
- Policy – Will be meeting in the next two weeks.
- Safety and Security – Nothing to report
- Superintendent's Evaluation – Nothing to report
- Strategic Plan/Curriculum – D. Person said that they met last evening and reviewed the ESSER II grant. Reopening plans are in the works with particular emphasis on the transitions from kindergarten to first grade, fourth the fifth and eighth to ninth. Exams will be performance based and open book. There is concentration on needs, support and finding that those who are classified as striving are making noticeable gains. A Google link has been set up for the curriculum with tie-in to the town and connection to the library.
- Negotiations – Nothing to report
- Governance – S. Haynes noted that there is still a search on for Board of Education recording secretary.

VII. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS

These were included in the Board packets.

Principal Apicelli introduced two seniors who did outstanding senior projects. He noted that on June 10th there will be an awards ceremony on the soccer field. Journie Deslauries did her senior project on the effects of social media on teenagers and Sierra Batista did hers on the many facets of child abuse. Both were very passionate about their topics and found that while the effort took weeks of hard work, they discovered that they had no problem exceeding the fifteen-minute minimum for the presentation. Journie's project will help her in her plans to teach children. Sierra's topic made her aware that if she could have such a positive impact on the four she presented to, how much of a greater impact she could have on the community and on the nation.

- Maureen noted that Journie is this year's recipient of the prestigious DAR Good Citizen Award given to a senior who excels in Service, Leadership, Dependability and Patriotism. Because of Covid, the students received their awards through the mail instead of the usual reception open to friends, family and teachers.
- Mr. Apicelli reported that Diane Ayer through her creative writing class, had eight of her students successfully compete in a Young Writers contest and their short stories were published in "Trapped".

VIII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. Enrollment - Holding at 947 students with 24 in magnet schools. As of 5/11, there are 22 students at LES still electing distance learning. 2 will return on Friday and 7 are on short-term quarantine. There are 29 at LMS and 2 on short-term quarantine. At Lyman, there are 49 electing distance learning. At a softball game over the weekend, there was one player from the other team that tested positive for Covid and no quarantining was

necessary but this shows that though the students are outside, there is still the opportunity for contact, especially since there are attendees without masks.

2. Reopening Plan – is still required. It will be updated and revised. The effort across the state is to open in the fall in-person and these are State, Department of Education and Department of Health recommendations. Superintendent Ciccone will reconvene the subcommittees to have them review their respective pieces. **Motion by A. Margerelli-Hussey and seconded by N. McGillicuddy to add an action item #4 to the agenda to direct administration to implement in-person learning without a 100% remote option for the 2021-2022 school year. The motion passed unanimously.**
3. End of Year Activities – All three schools are planning full in-person ceremonies. LES will have an evening celebration. LMS will be using the Lyman set-up for their 88th graders. Lyman will have their Bulldog Bash for an afternoon of fun and a more formal evening of entertainment is planned. The State Department of Health has offered assistance in 24-hour turn-around testing. Today Pat received a document entitled, Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity School COVID, that she will review and share with administration. The amphitheater at the high school has been renovated and will be used for upcoming presentations.
4. Google Communications - There has been some concern that Google documents being shared outside of internal school staff might cause some unintentional issues. Documents can still be shared as email attachments. If other ways of sharing may be necessary, J. Dulac should be contacted.
5. Search Update – Superintendent Ciccone said that a potential candidate for Business Manager has been added to the pool since last report but the search has been slow. We are investigating an interim with the help of CASBO. Most search firms do not typically deal with education positions.

IX. FACILITIES – K. French reported

1. Kropp estimate did not include new tiles so the estimate needs updating.
2. Kevin and John Jarvis investigated above the kitchen ceiling and found no issues, no mold, etc.
3. Awaiting Eversource engineering report on LES and Lyman. They are good with LMS. The next step is for the project manager to do a walk-through – hopefully this will all be accomplished by the end of next week. It takes 4 to 6 weeks for the materials to arrive and the job will be able to be accomplished while there are no students in the school.
4. Anchor Engineering is holding up moving forward. Kevin was instructed to let them know if we don't have what we need by the end of the month, we will look elsewhere.

X. FINANCE REPORT

1. Food Service
Carlos VeraCruz, Chef Manager, will survey parents for input on the need for the summer food program. Service of 70 to 80 meals per day is needed to break even. However, the BOE acknowledged “break-even” is not the criterion for moving forward. It was also noted that there could be a staffing challenge.
2. 2020-2021 Budget
Superintendent Ciccone reviewed Bob Sirpenski's report. At present the year-end forecast shows a positive balance in the range of \$175,000 to \$225,000. Expenses are continuously monitored to identify unexpected changes.

- SPED Excess Reimbursement is currently \$36,738 higher than the revised budget.
- Salary expenses are about \$61,000 under budget due to multiple reasons including delay in hiring a Curriculum Director until January, less usage of substitutes and the early retirement incentive.
- Magnet School tuition \$40,000 less than expected.
- Special Ed is forecast to have a positive variance of about \$204,000 at year-end, thus far. As such it may be a contributor to how we reconcile the 21-22 budget cut.
- Group health insurance has improved slightly and expected to be about \$49,000 over budget.
- Legal fees are at \$38,132 over budget through the end of April and could end the year at \$66,000 over budget.
- Other items such as student travel, field trips, and fees for officials and tournaments lend to a favorable year-end in those accounts.

Nicole noted that today's referendum passed.

3. COVID-19 Relief Funds

Administration is working through the allocation of the \$347,000 ESSER II Grant received. The ARP ESSER III Grant Application will be arriving soon and some of the focus will be on community and family engagement and also on healthy schools. Superintendent Ciccone noted that there is no reason for anyone to be concerned about positions. Nicole said that she intends to look at class sizes over the summer.

XI. ACTION ITEMS

1. Act on Letters of Resignation
Motion by M. Smith and seconded by M. DeCaprio to accept the resignations and M. McCall added with regret. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Act on 2021 Unaffiliated Salaries
Motion by A. Margerelli-Hussey and seconded by M. Smith to table until more information is available and put on next month's agenda. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Act on 1 Year Extension of *Turf and Landscape Agreement*. **Motion by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by M. DeCaprio to approve the *Turf and Landscape Agreement* and to specify 1 year 2021-2022. The motion passed unanimously.**
4. Act on Directing Administration to open in the Fall 100% in-person.
Motion by A. Margerelli-Hussey and seconded by M. McCall to direct the administration to implement an in-person learning program without a 100% remote learning option for the 2021-2022 school year, unless required by the State of Connecticut, or if deemed necessary by the Board of Education. This does not prohibit the implementation/use of remote learning for emergency situations as directed by the Superintendent. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by N. McGillicuddy and seconded by J. Konow to enter into executive session at 9:44 for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's Contract.

The meeting came out of executive session at 9:59. **Motion by J. Konow and seconded by N. McGillicuddy to extend the meeting no longer than 10:15. The motion passed unanimously.**

Motion by M. DeCaprio and seconded by J. Konow to enter into executive session at 10:00. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting came out of executive session at 10:08. **Motion by A. Margerelli-Hussey and seconded by M. Smith to amend the agenda to add Action Item #5 to act on the appointment of the superintendent including the contract. The motion passed unanimously.**

Motion by A. Margerelli-Hussey and seconded by M. Smith as follows: MOVED, in accordance with Section 10-157 of the Connecticut General Statutes, that the Board appoint Andrew Gonzalez as Superintendent of Schools, effective July 1, 2021; and MOVED FURTHER, that the Board Chairperson be authorized to execute the proposed contract on behalf of the Board with respect to Mr. Gonzalez's employment as Superintendent of Schools. The motion passed with S. Haynes, M. DeCaprio, D. Person, J. Konow, A. Margerelli-Hussey, M. McCall, D. Witcher and M. Smith for and N. McGillicuddy opposed.

XIII. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

The possibility of moving these meetings to the gym due to acoustic issues.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen D. McCall, Secretary